



KEY U.S. INITIATIVES AT THE UNITED NATIONS: *Democracy Fund, Democracy Caucus, and Human Rights Council*

UN Democracy Fund

Following President's Bush call to the UN General Assembly to establish a fund to assist nations seeking to transition to democracy or strengthen their democratic institutions, UN Secretary General Annan created the UN Democracy Fund on July 4, 2005. The UN Democracy Fund will provide grants to non-governmental organizations, states, and international organizations to carry out democratization projects, particularly those that help develop civil society and democratic institutions. The Fund will supplement and help increase overall coordination of UN democracy efforts and generate greater interest and commitment toward funding and implementation.



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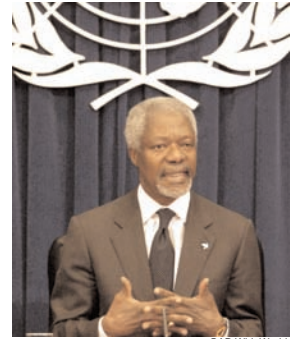
The UN Democracy Fund highlights the President's conviction that the UN must play an important role in promoting democracy, and the creation of the UN Democracy Fund is a key step toward achieving that goal. As described by the President at the 2004 UN General Assembly, the UN Democracy Fund "would help countries lay the foundations of democracy by instituting the rule of law, independent courts, a free press, political parties, and trade unions." Numerous UN member states have expressed support for the Fund, notably India as a key partner and financial supporter along with the U.S.

Democracy Caucus

Democratic nations share a common commitment to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms. The United States believes that democratic nations must work more closely together in order to help the United Nations live up to its founding principles. The Democracy Caucus at the United Nations — a network of democratic nations working together — advances the work of the UN in areas

such as human rights, good governance, and the rule of law.

The Democracy Caucus does not supplant longstanding regional or other groupings, but rather provides an added mechanism for like-minded democratic nations to cooperate. Countries use the Caucus as a supplementary network to cooperate on resolutions, on such areas as promoting democratic transitions, rule of law, and corruption-free societies.



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Human Rights Council

We support the Secretary-General's initiative to replace the Commission on Human Rights with an action-oriented Human Rights Council, whose membership should not include states with a record of abuse. The current Commission's lack of credibility, where human-rights abusers sit in judgment of democratic countries, is widely acknowledged. The new Council's mandate would be to address human rights emergencies and the most egregious human rights abuses, to provide technical assistance, and to promote human rights as a global priority. The new Council would meet through the year, unlike the current six-week Commission, in order to be able to respond in a timely manner to emerging or grave situations.



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U.S. PRIORITIES FOR A STRONGER, MORE EFFECTIVE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations is engaged in one of the most important debates in its history: how to reform itself, strengthen itself as an institution, and ensure that it addresses effectively the threats and challenges of the 21st Century. The United States is prepared to help lead the effort to strengthen and reform the UN. What follows are key issues the U.S. has identified as priorities, as we work with the UN and other member states towards the goal of a strong, effective, and accountable organization.

Management, Budget, and Administrative Reform

Management reform is necessary to ensure that Member States receive the greatest benefit from resources and that UN personnel are held to the highest standard of ethical conduct and accountability. Our proposals relate to three themes: accountability and integrity, improved effectiveness, and boosting the UN's relevance in the modern world. Building on these themes, we believe the following specific measures need to be implemented:

- A strong ethics code must be instilled in UN Staff and strictly enforced.
- Internal Oversight needs to be more independent; an oversight board with separate authority to recommend budget levels would help to accomplish this.
- The Secretary General's authority and duty to waive immunity must be affirmed so UN officials suspected of committing criminal activities can be fully investigated, and guilty individuals held accountable.
- UN activities must be reviewed for continuing relevance as the Secretary General has urged, and General Assembly mandates need to be reviewed periodically for relevance and effectiveness [*note: it's not just to eliminate mandates after their objectives have been achieved, but also where the mandates have been proven fruitless, inefficient, etc.*].

Peace Building Commission

We strongly support the Secretary General's concept of a Peace Building Commission that would allow the UN to more effectively galvanize international efforts to help countries recover after conflict. Such a Commission is urgently needed to ensure greater coordination within the UN system during a country's

A Security Council that looks like the World of 2005: The U.S. Approach

The United States is open to UN Security Council reform and expansion as one element of an overall agenda for UN reform. We advocate a criteria-based approach under which potential members must be supremely well qualified, based on factors such as: commitment to democracy and human rights, economic size, population, military capacity, financial contributions to the UN, contributions to UN peacekeeping, and record on counterterrorism and non-proliferation. While the overall geographic balance of the Council is a consideration, effectiveness remains the benchmark for any reform.

transition from conflict to post-conflict recovery, to better provide reconstruction and humanitarian support, and to set the stage for long-term development.

Comprehensive Convention on Terrorism

Member states should unequivocally outlaw acts of international terrorism, and it is time to reach agreement on the Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT). Adopting the CCIT would be an important achievement in the UN's global effort to counter terrorism.

Development

The United States supports the development goals in the Millennium Declaration, and President Bush has

made it clear that expanding the circle of freedom and prosperity are fundamental interests of the United States. The High-Level Event in September is an opportunity to renew our collective commitment to eradicate poverty and promote sustained economic development.

The UN Democracy Fund

The United States is a strong supporter of the newly-created UN Democracy Fund, which will provide grants to non-governmental organizations, governments, and international organizations to carry out democratization projects, particularly those that help develop civil society and democratic institutions. The Fund will coordinate with other UN offices that promote democracy and will generate greater interest and commitment toward funding and implementation.

Human Rights Council

Unfortunately, the current Commission on Human Rights, where countries with records of serious human rights abuses like Zimbabwe and Cuba sit in judgment of democratic countries, has lost credibility. We support the Secretary-General's initiative to replace the Commission on Human Rights with an action-oriented Human Rights Council, whose membership should not include states with a record of abuse. The Council's mandate should be to address human rights emergencies and the most egregious human rights abuses, to provide technical assistance, and to promote human rights as a global priority.



U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS:

Financial Contributions

U.S. Engagement in the United Nations

The United States co-founded and continues to support the United Nations as an instrument to foster international peace and security; to fight poverty through development; to eradicate diseases; and to advance freedom, human rights, and democracy.

United States leadership in the UN is critical to make the world more secure, more democratic, and more prosperous. At the same time, the United States is committed to ensuring good stewardship of UN resources so that these universal goals are met effectively and efficiently.

Financial Contributions to the United Nations

The United States has been the largest financial contributor to the UN every year since its creation in 1945. U.S. contributions to the UN system in 2004 were well over \$3 billion. For the calendar year 2003, the United States' assessed contribution to the UN regular budget was \$362 million. In addition, the United States' assessed contribution to UN specialized agencies amounted to well over \$400 million. The United States also contributed \$1.1 billion in assessments to the peacekeeping budget in calendar year 2004; \$72 million for the support of the international war crimes tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia; and nearly \$6 million for preparatory work relating to the UN Capital Master Plan. Moreover, each year the United States provides a significant amount in voluntary contributions to the UN and UN-affiliated organizations and activities, largely for humanitarian and development programs.

The United States is a generous supporter – in many cases the largest supporter—of key UN programs. In 2004, the U.S. contributed:

- 48% of the budget of the World Food Program to help feed 104 million people in 81 countries;
- 17% of the budget of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to feed, vaccinate, educate, and protect children in 157 countries;
- 31% of the budget of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to safeguard the rights and well-being of 19.2 million refugees in 116 countries.



U.S. PRIORITIES AT THE UNITED NATIONS 60TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY: *Counterterrorism*

The United States works closely in many international arenas to improve partnerships and capacities for fighting terrorism. A key element in the U.S. strategy has been securing meaningful Security Council action. The United States has led efforts in the Council to pass resolutions that provide both a framework and binding legal requirements for international cooperation and action by all Member States to prevent terrorism.

International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism

In February, 2005, President Bush and President Putin called for the early adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, which the General Assembly adopted earlier this year. This is the first counterterrorism convention adopted by the General

Assembly since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The Convention strengthens the international legal framework to combat terrorism. The United States urges all nations to sign the Convention.

Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism

The United States strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and urges the General Assembly to adopt a Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism. A clear, strong Convention on terrorism will bolster common efforts to preserve peace and security. It is time for all UN Member States to unequivocally outlaw acts of international terrorism. For too many years, the General Assembly has been unable to finalize this important treaty. It is time to reach agreement.

The United States encourages all nations to become party to the 12 counterterrorism conventions and protocols in force that were negotiated under the auspices of the UN and its affiliated agencies, and urges all parties to fully implement them.

The United States has signed and ratified these twelve conventions:

Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft

Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft

Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aviation

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Internationally Protected Persons, Including Diplomatic Agents

International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages

Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material

Protocol on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aviation

Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation

Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf

Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection

International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings

International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism